



Ray D Kearn

July 25, 1927 - March 26, 2016

Ray D. Kearn

Ray D. Kearn passed away on March 26, 2016 surrounded by his loving family. Ray was a consummate story teller with a passion for life, a deep belly laugh, and an incredible commitment to family.

He was born on July 25, 1927 in Tacoma, WA to Sadie and Ross Kearn. Soon after Ray moved with his family to Toppenish, WA where he spent his youth chasing cattle, bringing in hay, and getting into mischief. He graduated from Toppenish High School in 1945, after which, he immediately enlisted in the US Navy at the age of 17. He served in the Pacific Theater during WWII as a Seaman 1st Class until 1946. Upon returning home, Ray, took Pilot Lessons from Charlie McAllister receiving his license in 1947. Ray's time out of war was short lived and in 1951 he enlisted in the US Marines to fight in Korea. After Korea, his sister set him up on a blind date where he met the love of his life, Mary McMican. They were wed on July 24th, 1953 and immediately moved to Oakland, CA where Ray became a federal food inspector, a career he would have for the next 30 years.

They soon made their way back to Toppenish, buying a piece of land where they built their own home, raised three children, and created The Dirtysack Outfit. Ray was very active with Toppenish Junior Rodeo and in the late 1960's became "Cuzzy Ray" the Rodeo Clown for over 10 years. He and Mary spent most of their weekends watching their children rodeo, playing sports, and show animals. He loved to rodeo, dance, hunt, and camp; and every year

attended the Annual Elk Hunting Trip where, as Mary puts it, “more stories than elk came home.”

After 40 years of raising cattle Ray sold his herd and settled into a true life of retirement. He became a fixture at the Mt. Adams Country Club, golfing and telling stories into his late 70's. He and Mary also took multiple cross country trips and traveled to the Bahamas after retiring. As grandparents, they attended nearly every game, play, and event their grandchildren participated in, following their grandchildren well into their college years.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents Sadie and Ross Kearl, sister Norma (Bill) Wilson, son Dennis Kearl, and infant daughter. He is survived by his wife and dance partner Mary, daughters Ginger Lawrence and Cyndi (Kirk) Stuart, his grandchildren Justin (Julie) Lawrence, and Lace (Nick) Lawrence, as well as his great grandsons Tristan Lawrence and Beau Donahoe.

Thank you to the staff at the Cottage in the Meadow for caring for Ray and his family in his last days. A Memorial Service will be held at Colonial Funeral Home in Toppenish, on Saturday April 2nd at 11:00 am, with storytelling to follow at The Dirtysack Outfit. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Yakama Warriors or the Cottage in the Meadow.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ray D Kearl*

October 05, 2023 at 11:22 AM



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Ray D Kearl.*



April 01, 2016 at 03:48 PM



“ *The Gadley Family lit a candle in memory of Ray D Kearl*



The Gadley Family - March 29, 2016 at 05:37 PM



The Gadley Family

The Gadley Family - March 29, 2016 at 05:39 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Heggie's Colonial Funeral Home - March 29, 2016 at 02:55 PM